



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
PATENT OPERATIONS**

Art Unit: 1742 (Examiner: Tima McGuthry Banks)

Applicants: STEPHEN M. POTTER
PEDRO GUTEMBERG QUARIGUASI NETTO

Serial No: 10/789,694

Filed: February 27, 2004

Title: COMBINED PRE-TREATMENT PROCESS FOR ENABLING FEED
MATERIAL TO BE CHARGED IN DIRECT REDUCTION PROCESS

Charlotte, North Carolina
January 7, 2008

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Before the issuance of a First Office Action, kindly enter the following:

Amendments to the Claims begin on Page 2 of this report.

Remarks begin on Page 6 of this report.